

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Western District of North Carolina

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

FRANK LYNOLD MERCADO

) **JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE**
) (For Offenses Committed On or After November 1, 1987)
)
)
) Case Number: DNCW324CR000119-001
) USM Number: 19916-511
)
) Steven George Slawinski
) Defendant's Attorney

THE DEFENDANT:

- Pleaded guilty to count(s) 1.
- Pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) which was accepted by the court.
- Was found guilty on count(s) after a plea of not guilty.

ACCORDINGLY, the court has adjudicated that the defendant is guilty of the following offense(s):

Title and Section	Nature of Offense	Date Offense Concluded	Counts
18 U.S.C. § 1343	Wire Fraud	12/2022	1

The Defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 8 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, United States v. Booker, 125 S.Ct. 738 (2005), and 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

- The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s).
- Count(s) (is)(are) dismissed on the motion of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED that the Defendant shall notify the United States Attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay monetary penalties, the defendant shall notify the court and United States attorney of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances.

Date of Imposition of Sentence: 10/17/2024

Signed: October 18, 2024


 Kenneth D. Bell
 United States District Judge


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The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of FORTY-ONE (41) MONTHS.

- The Court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
 1. Placed in a facility as close to Miami, Florida as possible, consistent with the needs of BOP.
 2. Participation in any available educational and vocational opportunities.
- The Defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- The Defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this District:
 - As notified by the United States Marshal.
 - At _ on _.
- The Defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
 - As notified by the United States Marshal; defendant is not to be designated to surrender for service prior to January 2, 2025.
 - Before 2 p.m. on _.
 - As notified by the Probation Office.

RETURN

I have executed this Judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____ at _____
_____, with a certified copy of this Judgment.

United States Marshal

By: _____
Deputy Marshal

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SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of TWO (2) YEARS.

The condition for mandatory drug testing is suspended based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse.

CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

The defendant shall comply with the mandatory conditions that have been adopted by this court.

1. The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
2. The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the Court (unless omitted by the Court).
4. The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer (unless omitted by the Court).

The defendant shall comply with the discretionary conditions that have been adopted by this court and any additional conditions ordered.

5. The defendant shall report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where he/she is authorized to reside within 72 hours of release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs the defendant to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
6. The defendant shall report to the probation officer in a manner and frequency as directed by the Court or probation officer.
7. The defendant shall not leave the federal judicial district where he/she is authorized to reside without first getting permission from the Court or probation officer.
8. The defendant shall answer truthfully the questions asked by the probation officer. However, defendant may refuse to answer a question if the truthful answer would tend to incriminate him/her of a crime. Refusal to answer a question on that ground will not be considered a violation of supervised release.
9. The defendant shall live at a place approved by the probation officer. The probation officer shall be notified in advance of any change in living arrangements (such as location and the people with whom the defendant lives). If advance notification is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
10. The defendant shall allow the probation officer to visit him/her at any time at his/her home or any other reasonable location as determined by the probation office, and shall permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of his/her supervision that the probation officer observes.
11. The defendant shall work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at lawful employment, actively seek such gainful employment or be enrolled in a full time educational or vocational program unless excused by the probation officer. The defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of any change regarding employment or education.
12. The defendant shall not communicate or interact with any persons he/she knows is engaged in criminal activity, and shall not communicate or interact with any person he/she knows to be convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer.
13. The defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of being arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer.
14. The defendant shall not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
15. The defendant shall not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential informant without first getting the permission of the Court.
16. The defendant shall refrain from excessive use of alcohol and shall not unlawfully purchase, possess, use, distribute or administer any narcotic or controlled substance or any psychoactive substances (including, but not limited to, synthetic marijuana, bath salts) that impair a person's physical or mental functioning, whether or not intended for human consumption, or any paraphernalia related to such substances, except as duly prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner.
17. The defendant shall participate in a program of testing for substance abuse. The defendant shall refrain from obstructing or attempting to obstruct or tamper, in any fashion, with the efficiency and accuracy of the testing. The defendant shall participate in a substance abuse treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer will supervise the defendant's participation in the program (including, but not limited to, provider, location, modality, duration, intensity) (unless omitted by the Court).
18. The defendant shall not go to, or remain at any place where he/she knows controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered without first obtaining the permission of the probation officer.
19. The defendant shall submit to a search if the Probation Officer has a reasonable suspicion that the defendant has committed a crime or a violation of a condition of supervised release. Such a search may be conducted by a U.S. Probation Officer, and such other law enforcement personnel as the probation officer may deem advisable, without a warrant or the consent of the defendant. Such search may be of any place where evidence of the above may reasonably be expected to be found, including defendant's person, property, house, residence, vehicle, communications or data storage devices or media or office.
20. The defendant shall pay any financial obligation imposed by this judgment remaining unpaid as of the commencement of the sentence of probation or the term of supervised release in accordance with the schedule of payments of this judgment. The defendant shall notify the court of any changes in economic circumstances that might affect the ability to pay this financial obligation.
21. The defendant shall support all dependents including any dependent child, or any person the defendant has been court ordered to support.
22. The defendant shall participate in transitional support services (including cognitive behavioral treatment programs) and follow the rules and regulations of such program. The probation officer will supervise the defendant's participation in the program (including, but not limited to, provider, location, modality, duration, intensity). Such programs may include group sessions led by a counselor or participation in a program administered by the probation officer.
23. The defendant shall follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

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ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS:

24. The defendant shall provide access to any financial information as requested by the probation officer and shall authorize the release of any financial information. The probation office may share financial information with the U.S. Attorney's Office.
25. The defendant shall not seek any extension of credit (including, but not limited to, credit card account, bank loan, personal loan) unless authorized to do so in advance by the probation officer.
26. The defendant cannot be employed in a position where he/she has access to other persons' personal information and/or documentation containing personal information, including social security numbers, dates of birth, addresses, and financial and/or credit card account numbers.

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CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant shall pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the Schedule of Payments.

ASSESSMENT	RESTITUTION	FINE
\$100.00	\$709,690.00	\$0.00

The determination of restitution is deferred. Any motion for restitution must be filed within ____ days of the date of this order. Failing such filing, restitution amount becomes \$0.00.

INTEREST

The defendant shall pay interest on any fine or restitution of more than \$2,500.00, unless the fine or restitution is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on the Schedule of Payments may be subject to penalties for default and delinquency pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).

■ The court has determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:

■ The interest requirement is waived.

The interest requirement is modified as follows:

COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL FEES

The defendant shall pay court appointed counsel fees.

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The defendant shall make restitution to the following payees in the amounts listed below:

<u>NAME OF PAYEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF RESTITUTION ORDERED</u>
Adam Jacobson	\$59,143.00
Alejandro Diaz	\$6,000.00
Alexandra Castellanos	\$8,000.00
Andres Castro	\$5,000.00
Anthony Valle	\$2,425.00
Brenden Bedoya-Delgado	\$22,879.00
Damon Morales	\$12,222.00
David Pedraza	\$30,895.00
Dominic Pedraza	\$5,561.00
Donley Paraison	\$14,000.00
Douglas Elwood	\$66,930.00
Dylan Kennedy	\$3,552.00
Erika Rojo	\$17,015.00
Gian Cardona	\$5,930.00
Giorgio Botteri	\$58,755.00
Hannah Chisum	\$10,000.00
Jacob Schneider and Karen Serma	\$36,500.00
Jhordi Pichardo	\$12,692.00
Joshua Munoz	\$20,904.00
Juan Zapata	\$11,985.00
Julianna Alves	\$45,600.00
Kalysta Strauss	\$3,500.00
Kimberly Taormina	\$58,200.00
Leilani Piromalli	\$6,790.00
Michael Cifuentes	\$29,100.00
Mohamm Masri	\$9,618.00
Nahla Hassan	\$24,250.00
Nicolas Benitez	\$12,012.00
Robert Elwood dba Summer Camp Advising Team	\$43,000.00
Ronald Chica	\$20,752.00
Ryan Jorden	\$2,910.00
Sofia Marror	\$9,700.00
Tyler Yniguez	\$2,900.00
Wahidur Sikder	\$30,000.00
Yalisis Figueroa	\$970.00

 Joint and Several Restitution is Ordered as follows:

- Defendant and Co-Defendant Names and Case Numbers (*including defendant number*) if appropriate:
- Associated Defendant Name(s) and Case Number(s) (*including defendant number*) if appropriate:
- Court gives notice that this case may involve other defendants who may be held jointly and severally liable for payment of all or part of the restitution ordered herein and may order such payment in the future.

The victims' recovery is limited to the amount of their loss and the defendant's liability for restitution ceases if and when the victim(s) receive full restitution. Any payment not in full shall be divided proportionately among victims.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3364(i), all nonfederal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties shall be due as follows:

A Lump sum payment of \$0.00 due immediately, balance due
 Not later than _____
 In accordance (C), (D) below; or

B Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with (D) below); or

C Payment in equal monthly installments of \$50.00 to commence 60 days after the date of this judgment; or

D In the event the entire amount of criminal monetary penalties imposed is not paid prior to the commencement of supervision, payments shall be made in equal monthly installments of \$50.00 to commence 60 days after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision. The U.S. Probation Officer shall pursue collection of the amount due, and may request to modify a payment schedule if appropriate 18 U.S.C. § 3572.

Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:

The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
 The defendant shall pay the following court costs:
 The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States as set forth in the Consent Order document 12 entered 6/12/2024:
Document number 12 is incorporated into this judgment.

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise in the special instructions above, if this judgment imposes a period of imprisonment payment of criminal monetary penalties shall be due during the period of imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalty payments are to be made to the United States District Court Clerk, 401 West Trade Street, Room 1301, Charlotte, NC 28202, except those payments made through the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program. All criminal monetary penalty payments are to be made as directed by the court.

The Defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) AVAA assessment, (5) fine principal, (6) fine interest, (7) community restitution, (8) JVTA assessment, (9) penalties, and (10) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.

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STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand that my term of supervision is for a period of _____ months, commencing on _____.

Upon a finding of a violation of probation or supervised release, I understand that the court may (1) revoke supervision, (2) extend the term of supervision, and/or (3) modify the conditions of supervision.

I understand that revocation of probation and supervised release is mandatory for possession of a controlled substance, possession of a firearm and/or refusal to comply with drug testing.

These conditions have been read to me. I fully understand the conditions and have been provided a copy of them.

(Signed) _____ Date: _____
Defendant

(Signed) _____ Date: _____
U.S. Probation Office/Designated Witness